U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMANK OFFICE FORM PTO-1390 70 0 6 APR 2001 R TO THE UNITED STATES TRANSMITTAL LED DESIGNATED/EL TED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED PCT/US99/23267 06 October 1999 06 October 1998 TITLE OF INVENTION Splittable Multicomponent Elastomeric Fibers APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Arthur Talley, Jr. et al. Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 4. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). has been communicated by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). have been communicated by the International Bureau. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. have not been made and will not be made. An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11 to 16 below concern document(s) or information included: An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. A FIRST preliminary amendment. A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. A substitute specification. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.

Copy of Amendment under PCT Article 34 with Replacement Sheets 29-41; Copy of Form PCT/IB/308 (1 Page); Copy of Internation Preliminary Examining Report; and Postcard Receipt.

Other items or information:

Prior to entering the Preliminary Amendment, please enter the Amendment under PCT Article 34 by replacing original sheets 29-37 with replacement sheets 29-41.

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| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ ^{2622.00} | | |
| Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. | | | | \$ 1311.00 | | |
| SUBTOTAL = | | | | \$ ^{1311.00} | | |
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JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 APR 2001

Atty. Docket No.: 10236.HIL

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

In re the PCT Application of

Hills, Inc.

International Application No.: PCT/US99/23267

Filed: October 6, 1999

For: Splittable Multicomponent Elastomeric Fibers

LETTER ACCOMPANYING AMENDMENT UNDER ARTICLE 34

ATTN: BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner For Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

An amendment for the subject PCT application under PCT Article 34 is enclosed. The amendment includes substitute sheets 29-36 of the claims. Specifically, the substitute claim sheets remove originally filed claims 1-62 and present new claims 1-104 for preliminary examination. Many of the new claims correspond to originally filed claims. In particular, original claims 1-62 respectively correspond to new claims 1-14, 19-33, 67-84 and 89-103. Note that, while there is a direct correspondence between these original and new claims, a number of the new independent claims have been reworded for clarity. Finally, new claims 15-18, 34-66, 85-88 and 104 have been added to recite specific features of the disclosed invention.

Favorable preliminary examination of the claims is earnestly solicited in view of the Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. Finnan

Registration No. 39,189

EPSTEIN, EDELL, SHAPIRO & FINNAN, LLC 1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 400 Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164 (301) 424-3640

Hand-delivered: August 4, 2000